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Cal/EPA Secretary Says Governor's Strategic Growth Plan Makes Unprecedented Investment in Clean Air

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(SACRAMENTO) – California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) Secretary Alan C. Lloyd, Ph.D., today praised Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's Strategic Growth Plan for making an unprecedented investment in air quality and public health. Dr. Lloyd discussed the Governor's plan at a hearing of the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee.

"Governor Schwarzenegger's Strategic Growth Plan invests \$2 billion in technology and infrastructure to clean the air," said Dr. Lloyd. "This new investment builds upon the Governor's successful efforts to improve air quality by permanently funding the Carl Moyer diesel retrofit program and the Breathe Easier Campaign, which removes gross-polluting vehicles from our roads."

Dr. Lloyd said the Strategic Growth Plan's investment in air quality will help Governor Schwarzenegger achieve his goal of reducing air pollution in California by 50 percent by the year 2010.

"The Governor knows that by making appropriate investments today, we can achieve a significant, ongoing reduction in air pollution and improve Californians' health, environment and quality of life," Dr. Lloyd added.

In addition to the \$2 billion dedicated to air quality, the Strategic Growth Plan invests an additional \$105 billion in transportation infrastructure projects that will relieve traffic congestion, reducing the exposure of millions of Californians to air pollution in their communities and as they travel along the state's highways.

The Strategic Growth Plan does not dictate how the \$2 billion for air quality must be spent, but Dr. Lloyd said the funds may be targeted at key sources of pollution that are currently unregulated by the state, including ships and trains.

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